



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2011

No. 65

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Father Steven E. Boes, the national executive director of Boys Town in Boys Town, NE.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Creator God, we ask Your blessing upon the men and women of the Senate. Give them the wisdom of Father Edward Flanagan, the founder of Boys Town, who taught America that "there are no bad boys; only bad environment, bad training, and bad example." Help us as a nation to save children by healing families so that they can provide the good environment, training, and example our young people need to be healthy, productive citizens. Please inspire our Senators to work together to strengthen our families and communities so that our children can become stronger in body, mind, and spirit.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK BEGICH led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BEGICH thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nebraska.

WELCOMING FATHER BOES

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise to thank Father Steven Boes for delivering the opening prayer this morning.

Father Boes has been a priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha since 1985. He has more than 20 years experience as a counselor and youth advocate in Nebraska.

Father Boes served 8 years as director of the St. Augustine Indian Mission and School in Winnebago, NE. He established programs to help Winnebago and Omaha children preserve their traditional language, spirituality, and culture while preparing them for higher education.

In 2005, Father Boes was named the executive director of Boys Town, one of the largest childcare organizations in America. Boys Town provides compassionate, research-proven treatment for children with behavioral, emotional, and physical problems. Father Boes is the fourth priest to succeed Father Edward Flanagan, the founder of Boys Town.

As a young priest in Omaha, Father Flanagan had grown discouraged in his work with transient men. His frustration led him to borrow \$90 to rent a drafty downtown boarding house and open his first home for boys in 1917. Youngsters from all over Omaha soon began showing up at the doorstep of

Father Flanagan's Home for Boys. Father Flanagan said:

When the idea of a boys' home grew in my mind, I never thought anything remarkable about taking in all of the races and all of the creeds. To me, they are all God's children. They are my brothers. They are children of God. I must protect them to the best of my ability.

In 1921, Father Flanagan moved his boys home to a farm just outside of Omaha, and it soon became known as the Village of Boys Town. By the 1930s, hundreds of boys lived there. The world learned of Father Flanagan's success in 1938 when he was played by Spencer Tracy in the "Boys Town" Hollywood movie.

Boys Town began admitting girls in 1979 and established programs at more than one dozen sites across the country in the mid-1980s.

Under the leadership of Father Boes, Boys Town has focused on implementing its unique integrated continuum of care to strengthen a child's mind, body, and spirit. Father Boes is also expanding Boys Town's role in advocating for changes to our childcare system, which is often fragmented, expensive, and ineffective. He has called for smarter investments and earlier interventions for at-risk children, which can prevent much more expensive problems for society if those children fall through the cracks. For instance, keeping a 14-year-old from dropping out of high school will end up saving taxpayers about \$500,000 over that child's lifetime. Keeping him from becoming a career criminal will save as much as \$5 million.

Almost a century ago, Father Flanagan said:

There is nothing the matter with our growing boys that love, proper training, and guidance will not remedy.

Father Boes continues to carry out that mission of healing today.

I thank Father Boes—I know we all do—for his devotion to building healthy, positive lives for children, and I thank Father Boes for his words here

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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